

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-7 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A topsheet for disposable wearing articles which comprises:
a nonwoven fabric having an upper surface and a lower surface; and
a plurality of openings formed in said nonwoven fabric, said plurality of openings extending through said upper and lower surfaces,
said nonwoven fabric having a generally uniform thickness,
each of said plurality of openings having an area of about 0.16 - 5 mm² and a periphery portion adjacent said upper surface in which only a part of the periphery portion has an increased thickness as compared to said generally uniform thickness so as to make portions of said openings protuberated upward from said upper surface.

2. (Amended) The topsheet according to Claim 1, wherein said nonwoven fabric has a longitudinal direction and a transverse direction both orthogonal to a thickness direction of said nonwoven fabric and said parts of the periphery portions of said plurality of openings which are protuberated upward are formed aside of said plurality of openings in one of said longitudinal and transverse directions.

3. (Amended) The topsheet according to Claim 1, wherein said parts of the periphery portions of said plurality of openings are increased in thickness upward from said upper surface by about 0.1 - 2 mm as compared to said generally uniform thickness of said nonwoven fabric.

4. (Amended) The topsheet according to Claim 1, wherein said parts of the periphery portions of said plurality of openings which are protuberated upward have a density which is